United Nations ST/IC/2003/21

Secretariat

25 March 2003

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Officer-in-Charge, Office of Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 3 April 2003 "Endangered Species Series"**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 3 April 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered species of fauna. These will be the eleventh set of stamps in the UNPA multi-year Endangered Species series, which was launched on 3 March 1993 to highlight the need for the protection of species throughout the world which are in endanger of extinction.

Denomination:
$0.37

Endangered species:
Great hornbill
Scarlet ibis
Knob-billed goose
White-faced whistling duck

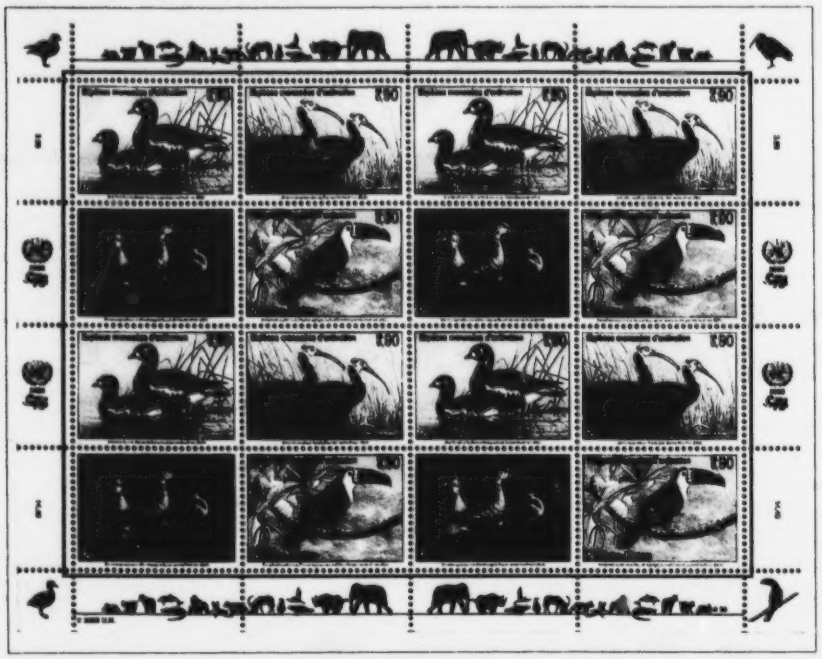
Designer:
Joseph Hautman
(United States of America)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 18 April 2003.

03-29361 (E) 270303

2. The issue will consist of three sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of $0.37, SwF 0.90 and €0.51. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species.

(United States equivalents — SwF 0.90: $0.60 and €0.51: $0.51, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)



Denomination:
SwF 0.90

Endangered species:
Red-breasted goose
Bald ibis
Fulvous whistling duck
Channel-billed toucan

Designer:
James Hautman
(United States of America)

Denomination:
€0.51

Endangered species:
Baikal teal
Hadada ibis
Toco toucan
Egyptian goose

Designer:
Robert Hautman
(United States of America)

2003 Endangered Species Annual Collection

3. On 3 April 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration will release the 2003 Endangered Species Annual Collection folder of single mint stamps.

4. The 2003 Annual Collection will be contained in a specially designed album. The album devotes separate pages to each of the 12 endangered species. Descriptive information is provided in English, French and German, and each stamp is beautifully highlighted by a colourful array of photographs relative to the species. It should be noted that the Endangered Species series will not be included in the Annual Collection albums to be issued later in 2003.

5. The stamps are not affixed inside the album, although spaces and mounts have been provided for this purpose.

Triple-cancelled Endangered Species Annual Collection folder

6. Since the 2003 Endangered Species Annual Collection folder will contain stamps in all three denominations, special arrangements have been made by UNPA to make available to its collectors the Endangered Species collections, in which the stamps will be affixed and cancelled 3 April 2003, the first day of issue in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as appropriate.

7. The policy of offering triple cancellations for the Endangered Species Annual Collection will continue throughout the duration of this series.

Maximum cards

8. The twenty-fourth set of UNPA maximum cards will also be issued on 3 April 2003. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three different se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. To conform to the maximum cards issued for the Endangered Species in prior years, each maximum card will reproduce photographs of the species appearing on each of the stamps in the se-tenant block. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue for each respective office. The maximum card cancelled United Nations New York will sell for $1.78. The cancelled United Nations Geneva card is priced at $2.71, while the cancelled United Nations Vienna card is priced at $2.32, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Special limited anniversary cover

9. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on 3 March 1973. To commemorate the thirtieth anniversary, UNPA has produced a limited number of special first day covers in silk. The $0.37 White-faced whistling duck, the SwF 0.90 Red-breasted goose and the €0.51 Baikal teal will be affixed to these covers and cancelled appropriately. These covers will sell for $3.95 while supplies last.

General information

10. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first day cachets only. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 3 April, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) The counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

11. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

12. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.